



NOTICE TO BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

Re: Sign Structures

On October 19, 2023, the Contractor's Licensing Board addressed a request from local building officials to clarify its interpretation of the scope of the exemption for the installation, repair, or maintenance of signs or billboards found at S.C. Code § 40-11-360. The Board confirmed that the exemption covers signs only and that sign structures fall outside of the scope of the exemption. **Thus, while no license is required to install, repair, or maintain a sign, a license is required for the construction of sign structures when construction of the structure includes work falling within a licensure classification and the total cost of the project exceeds the statutory cost threshold.** This interpretation is consistent with the Board's long-held position that a license is required for those portions of a project falling within a license classification, even if a license is not required for other portions of the project. The Board previously addressed this issue in 2016, when it accepted the recommendation of its Sign Study Committee that a specialty license in the concrete or structural framing classifications was required to erect or install a sign. The Board would direct building officials to Appendix H of the South Carolina Building Code for additional information related to sign structures.

While the Board's recent interpretation of S.C. Code § 40-11-360(11) is in keeping with its prior positions concerning the licensing requirements for sign structures, LLR encourages local building departments to consult with their legal counsel to determine the appropriate course of action.

Impacted parties requesting additional information may contact the Board via the following methods:

Telephone - (803) 896-4686

Email - Contact.CLB@llr.sc.gov

Website - llr.sc.gov/clb/